

DETAILED ACTION

THIS OFFICE ACTION IS IN RESPONSE TO APPLICANT'S AMENDMENT FILED 8/19/2009.

Status of Claims

- Claims 7-15, 17 were canceled.
- Claims 1-6 were amended.
- Claims 1-6, 16, and 18 are pending.

Claim Objections

[1] Applicant has addressed all objections to the Claims in the amendment filed 8/19/2009.

Accordingly, all objections to the disclosure have been withdrawn by the Examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

[2] Claims 1-6, 16, and 18 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

[3] The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art, either alone or in combination with corresponding limitations as stated above, fails to teach or disclose of the claimed limitations of independent claim 16 along with a resilient spacer between the abutment portion and the longitudinal member for retaining the edge portion of the sheet between the abutment portion and the resilient spacer. Claim 18 is dependent upon claim 16. Further, with regard to claim 1, the prior art, either alone or in combination with corresponding limitations as stated above, fails to teach or disclose of the claimed limitations including a pleat with a free longitudinal edge being unconnected the sheet to define an open pleat, a drive, an actuator, and at least one connector that possesses a longitudinal member connected to the drive such that the pleat is received against an edge of the longitudinal member with the sheet lying on opposed surfaces of the longitudinal member; the connector also having an abutment portion

securable against the longitudinal member on the sheet for pressing the sheet and the pleat against both the opposed surfaces of the longitudinal member.

Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee, and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

[4] Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David C. Reese whose telephone number is (571) 272-7082. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am-6:00 pm Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Victor Batson can be reached at (571) 272-6987. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is the following: (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

David Reese

/D. C. R./
Examiner, Art Unit 3677

/Victor Batson/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3677